



COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing—CAF



IMPORTANT DATES

Volume III Issue VII

JULY 10, 2010

- SATURDAY, JUL 10
0900hrs—Staff Meeting
1030hrs—Wing Meeting
1200hrs—Potluck Lunch
1300hrs—Loading Class
- SATURDAY, AUG 21
0900hrs—Staff Meeting
1030hrs—Wing Meeting
1200hrs—Potluck Lunch
1300hrs—Work at TJC Hangar
- FRIDAY JUL 23—
Summer B-17 Tour Begins

Inside this issue:

Wing Leader's Report, Exec Ofcr Report	2
Maintenance Officer's Report, PX Report	3
Photos from JUL 5th Revenue Rides	4
B-17 TOUR TIPS Summer Tour	5
Wing Staff Contact Info	8

Prelude to the Summer Tour



Looking ahead to the extended tour for *TEXAS RAIDERS*, we are preparing, strategizing, organizing, projecting, and visualizing the process of taking this vintage bomber on the road. We've done it before, but so many years have passed since the Fortress left the confines of Texas and stretched the mission beyond our comforts of home. In many ways, our team of hearty wing members have achieved the impossible. We were told so many times that we would never get this bird back into the air again...would never see the printed schedule of tour stops, and would lose a bunch of members along the way trying. Never tell a Texan that you CAN'T do something and he'll do his best to prove you wrong. It took a lot of money, thousands of hours, buckets of sweat, and a mindset of positive results to achieve flight. There are just a few of us who've toured with this B-17 in years past, and by taking the right steps, the safe steps, and the calculated steps we're nearly ready to take this beautiful Flying Fortress out to the public once again. On July 23rd we will embark on a 22-day mission of enlightenment, education and energy into the public arena. We've been preparing for this over the past eight years. An example is shown above, when on July 5th, the crew (L/M-Rick Baker, F/E-Mike Laschet, PIC-Ken Hyman and SIC-Al Feltis) flew a group of passengers, including two WWII veterans on a rewarding flight from Hooks Airport. Our team of wing members processed the paper-work, briefed the passengers, loaded the flight and completed two full rides without a hitch. That's a good feeling as we head into to our summer tour. (More photos on the July 5th event on Page 4) Col S. Thompson, Editor



FROM THE WING LEADER

HAPPY SOGGY INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 3rd finds us dripping at the hangar in a torrential down-pour, almost all dressed up and definitely with someplace to go. Once the rain abates, the Maintenance Crew will try and install the oil pressure transducer on Engine 2 and see if we can go fly today and on the 5th of July. This is akin to "sweating out the mission" with the major difference being that no one is specifically trying to kill us when we do get off the ground.

But it reminds me to send up a prayer to all of our Military around the world fighting for and guarding our Freedom. I have heard our current conflicts described as "Low Intensity Wars" the same way B17 missions would be described as "Milk Runs" if only 1,2 or 3 aircraft were lost. For those planes or our Military today, if you were one of the 1,2 or 3 it was the worst if not the last day of your life. Prayers up!

SWEATING OUT THE SUMMER'S BIG MISSION—I wish TEXAS RAIDERS had 100 seats and not just ten. Fortunately this is the first BIG Mission and God Willing, not the last. The process of making crew assignments has not been easy. But I am confident that Bomber Ops. has applied the policies and weighed the needs of the mission to give as many Cols. as possible a shot at being a part of Wing History.

As we prepare for this three week journey it is easy to imagine everything that can go wrong and go over preparations to avoid those calamities. But every now and again I try to imagine everything that can go RIGHT and I try to prepare to make that happen.

More and more of the equipment that helps give TR an air of authenticity is going back on the plane. The sofa pillows have been replaced by Olive Drab canvas cushions. Oxygen hoses are being clamped back into regulators. Ammunition chutes and belts are being restored. My favorite bit is that the 50 calibre cheek guns are now back in place with new canvas dust covers. My late brother Frank taught himself gunsmithing, among many other pursuits. He had the artisan's approach that once you were finished working on a project, "no one should be able to tell that it was touched by a tool." TEXAS RAIDERS and all of our missions deserve that level of respect and attention to detail.

It appears to have stopped raining and now I guess it is time to go back to sweating.

Col Don Price, Wing Leader

EXECUTIVE OFFICER, Col Wayne Kennedy



Fellow Colonels,

2010 is already half gone and we are about to get into the "meat & potatoes" of our first road tour since 2001. Imagine that — we are about to return to being ambassadors representing "Texas Raiders" and the Commemorative Air Force in places that either we have not been there for a long time or are about to land in new frontiers. With this being said, we need to prepare ourselves to be good ambassadors, being very courteous to the many, many people that will tour or fly in "Texas Raiders." Let us all please do our part in projecting a great image to guests.

Additionally, we have to be in a survival mode as well. We will be spending many tours on the flight line being exposed to the elements of weather. Please remember to hydrate yourself with plenty of water or Gatorade. Additionally, please remember to have plenty of sunscreen. My old favorite that I relied on even on the flight deck in the Tonkin Gulf back in '72 is Bullfrong. To me that stuff is worth its weight in gold when you have to spend a lot of time out in the sun.

I hope everyone had a great 4th of July weekend. When you see any of our troops in your travels, please take a moment and extend your thanks to them for continuing to carry the sword in preserving our freedom. As we all know — Freedom isn't free!

Take care and have a great July.

Semper Fi, *Wayne F. Kennedy*

Maintenance Officer's Report



Fellow Gulf Coast Wing Members:

Your maintenance team has been working overtime to give you the best B- 17 in the World, not only for the upcoming trip but for several years to come! Texas Raiders will represent "TEXAS" and the Gulf Coast Wing of the CAF along with Sentimental Journey from Arizona. You can rest assured that all the B- 17's going on this trip will be in as good a flying condition and eye appeal as their maintenance team can make them. So with that said, let me tell you that in the last month, we have completed our first 30 hour inspection, replaced ALL of the hydraulic lines, repaired two engines, completed the pushrod hoses and clamps replacement on all the engines, installed new seat foam and covers on the pilots and copilots seats, installed twelve life vests in pouches, cleaned all four engines front and back and the cowl panels, built up a nitrogen bottle cart assembly for the struts, built a tail- wheel jack assembly to turn the tail wheel before pulling TR out of the hanger, put in a platform for luggage with custom made netting in the bomb- bay, painted dozen's of bare spots on TR's fuselage, removed the paint from the stainless around the turbos on engines 1 & 2 and polished the stainless, installed a customized cargo net in the tail section for light weight cargo, installed the cheek guns with new canvas covers, installed waist guns, located the original oval shaped guides that attach to the zippers on the chin turret, cleaned them up and powered coated and installed them, designed and installed a privacy curtain for the porta- can and have spent hours figuring out where to put everything we need to take on this three week journey. We only have a short time left to finish what we need to do, so if you can come out and help, please do.

Chuck Conway
Maintenance Officer

PX News & Info

Wings Over Houston is right around the corner and this is the most profitable event for our PX. We will have 3 booths set up for sale of PX merchandise. It takes around 40 volunteers just to staff these PX locations.



I am still in need of about 20 more volunteers, so if you think you'd like to help out, please let me know at vthomas4@comcast.net. You will receive free entrance into the air show for the day you work and can work in 1/2 day shifts (or all day, if that works for you). If you work all day, you will receive a ticket for a free lunch.

For those of you who have never volunteered to work in the PX, you don't know what you're missing! Great people, lots of fun and you can be a part of making lots of money for the Gulf Coast Wing. Thanks !

Col. Vicki Thomas
Commemorative Air Force
Gulf Coast Wing - PX Officer
281.620.5639 (cell)
281.303-8008 (home)

July 5th Rides at Hooks



From the briefing to take-off, the effort by all wing members was crucial to the CAF and GCW mission.

Photos by Col Kevin Hong.





B-17 TOUR TIPS

We are nearing our starting point in the extended tour operation. It has been a coordinated effort between maintenance, supply, safety-planning and crew training, but we feel confident that we have laid the proper ground-work to make this a successful tour.

All crewmembers who are participating in this tour are requested to carefully review the attachment of **EXTENDED TOUR OPERATIONS—TEXAS RAIDERS**. This document provides detailed guidance on the way we operate and will answer many of your questions. Thanks to all of you who have worked so hard to put this tour together. Looking forward to this three-week experience which will extend the history of this great airplane and tell the story not only of the B-17 but also the role of the CAF in preserving the history of World War II Military Aviation.

B-17 Operations Summer Tour

TO: All "TR" Crew Members

Details of Subject Tour have been finalized as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LEAVE</u>	<u>ARRIVE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
23JUL	DWH	TIP (Rantoul, ILL Champaign/Urbana)	Tours, Rev Rides, Chanute Air Museum
27JUL	TIP	OSH	EAA Air Venture / Tours , Air Show Flying, 28, 30JUL
01AUG	OSH	AZO (Kalamazoo)	Tours, Rev Rides, Air Zoo Museum
05AUG	AZO	YIP (Yipsilanti, MI Willow Run A/P)	Thunder Over Michigan / Tours, Air Show Flying, Gathering of B-17s
09AUG	YIP	BNA (Nashville, TN)	381st BG Annual Reunion / Tours, Rev Rides, Reception for 381st BG Atlantic Aviation FBO
13AUG	BNA	DWH	Return to Home Base

Col Walt Thompson—GCW Bomber Operations Officer

See the accompanying document **EXTENDED TOUR OPERATIONS—TEXAS RAIDERS** for details on the Summer Tour.



WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW

OCT 23—OCT 24 2010

Col Sandy Thompson
Gulf Coast Wing—CAF
Public Information Officer
113 Coldwater Creek Lane
Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

Phone 817 341 1541
FAX 817 341 2075

Email
B17Rides@gulfcoastwing.org
info@gulfcoastwing.org



If you've received this newsletter by mistake, but you are happy with what you see, please feel free to contact any one of us listed in this document, to join our group. The Commemorative Air Force is dedicated to the educational preservation in flying condition of WWII and combat aircraft. Our mission extols the sacrifice made by veterans from all wars who have helped us live in freedom.



Gulf Coast Wing
Of The
Commemorative Air Force

COWL FLAPS

Gulf Coast Wing Elected Staff			
Wing Leader.....	Col Don Price.....	don_price56@hotmail.com	713 988 2765
Adjutant.....	Col Craig Freeland.....	craig@swtrgroup.com	281 298 1818
Finance Officer.....	Col Mark Allen.....	mark.allen@ips.invensys.com	832 493 1368
Bomber Opns.....	Col Walt Thompson....	txraiders@uwmail.com	817 341 1541
Executive Officer.....	Col Wayne Kennedy....	wfkenedy@swbell.net	281 855 2520
Fighter Opns.....	Col Jim Ryan.....	tora113@yahoo.com	979 233 5919
Safety Officer.....	Col Ky Putnam.....	713 683 8930
Supply Officer.....	Col Bud Bearce.....	budk5jgu@hal-pc.org	713 864 7435
Maintenance Ofcr....	Col Chuck Conway....	chucksautoelectric@sbcglobal.net	281 482 8980
Gulf Coast Wing Appointed Staff			
Webmaster.....	Col Herb Duncan.....	duncanenterprises@gmail.com
Public Info Officer...	Col Sandy Thompson...	thompsonb17@uwmail.com	817 341 1541
PX Officer.....	Col Vicki Thomas.....	vthomas4@comcast.net	281 303 8008
Morale Officer.....	Col Suzie Bredlau.....	rikkysue@aol.com	281 398 6977
Development Ofcr...	Col Don Outler.....	djoutler@comcast.net	281 486 1830
Gulf Coast Wing Hangar is located at 9310 Max Conrad Drive, Spring TX 77379			
Volunteers and wing members are dedicated to the preservation in flying status of WWII aircraft which include the TORA fleet and the B-17, TEXAS RAIDERS. Interested parties are encouraged to visit, volunteer and, of course, <u>join</u> our organization. CAF memberships with full-voting privileges are \$200/year. Supporting/Associate memberships provide benefits without voting privileges and are \$55/year (effective 03/01/08). Cadet memberships for ages 13-23 are \$45/year. Membership forms are found on our website at www.gulfcoastwing.org			



Col Sandy Thompson
Gulf Coast Wing CAF
113 Coldwater Creek Lane
Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

